

SOUTHERN CROSS

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Dr. EARL S. ERB.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana was honoured to welcome Dr. Erb to British Guiana for a three-week visit. He arrived July 27, and he left August 20. Dr. Erb is the Executive Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America. Dr. Erb served as Commissioner of the Board to the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India from September 30, 1951, to February 20, 1952. He also visited Germany in 1952. Since he assumed office in December 1953, Dr. Erb has been busy

visiting the various foreign mission fields of the church. Recently, he visited Japan, Argentina, Malaya and Hong-Kong. This was Dr. Erb's first visit to British Guiana, and he has made it a memorable one. Dr. Erb expressed deep appreciation for the gracious way in which British Guiana received him and Dr. Gilbert.

He stated :—"The evidences of growth and development in the Church in British Guiana must bring you a great deal of satisfaction even as they have been an encouragement to me. It has indeed been a privilege to think with you concerning the world-wide task of the church permitted to us by the Lord. How inadequate we feel for the task, yet if we seek to serve Him humbly we know that He will enable us to bear fruit.

Even before I came to British Guiana, I had read a great deal about the recent social and political happenings. Times of such change are the periods when the sound Christian Gospel must be preached faithfully. Life is changing but will it be for better or for worse. God by His Holy Spirit alone can transform. We must preach His Word and not be drawn aside into avenues which are not the mission of the church. Yours is a great opportunity but also a great responsibility in these days. May God guide and direct all of us in all we do and say so that we may not fail him.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the gracious way in which you received Dr. Gilbert and me. In spite of the difficult problems we had to face, I shall carry with me many pleasant memories and shall treasure the friendships established in the Church in British Guiana."



Dr. HERMAN GILBERT

Dr. Herman Gilbert has just completed his second visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana. Arriving by Pan American Flight on July 28th, just one day later than Dr. Erb, he was warmly greeted by officials of the Church. Dr. Gilbert is Secretary for Promotion of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church of America. He is also the Corresponding Secretary for three mission fields—Argentina, British Guiana, and Liberia. Pastor Gilbert, accompanied by Mrs. Gilbert visited Lutheran mission work in Argentina, British Guiana and Brazil as an official representative of the Board for two months during the summer of 1951. He has also made two field trips to Liberia, one in 1953 and one in 1954. Dr. Gilbert endeared himself to Guianese with his ready sense of humour as well as his keen interest in the work of the Church in British Guiana. During his stay, Dr. Gilbert with Dr. Erb, carried out a gruelling schedule of meetings and preaching engagements. The Church in British Guiana is deeply grateful for the time and energy these two men of God have given.

MISSIONARIES COMING

During September the Church in British Guiana will receive the services of Missionary Leland Ingalls, his wife and daughter and Miss Ruth Zartman. Pastor Ingalls has been assigned to the West Coast Berbice Parish. Miss Zartman has been assigned to the Lower Corentyne Parish with additional teaching duties in the Lutheran Training Institute.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of British Guiana is happy to welcome a new missionary to the field Miss Marianne Fague who arrived in the colony on July 7th. She was met at Atkinson Field by a contingent of missionaries and officials in the Church. Miss Fague is the daughter of a Lutheran Pastor in Pennsylvania. Her hobbies are music and dramatics. Miss Fague has served as a teacher at Konnarock Lutheran School in Konnarock, Virginia for the past two years. She has been assigned to the West Coast Berbice Parish to replace Miss Elaine Wagner who has returned to the United States on furlough. Miss Fague will also assist in the Lutheran Training Institute.



MISS MARIANNE ESTHER FAGUE

THE UPPER BERBICE RIVER PARISH

PASTOR H. C. MAGALEE.

The incessant showers of rain continue to wreak havoc in our farms. Every cultivated area is over-run with grass. The soil has become soggy and planting cannot even be attempted. The rains have prevented the burning of rice fields so next year is expected to be the third consecutive "rice-less" year.

These heavy rainy seasons usually critical for farmers, are ideal for our timber men. Unfortunately, the slump in the timber market continues and one's labours in this industry bring very little reward, if any.

In the midst of this depressing atmosphere there has sprung up a ray of hope in the establishment of Logging Co-operatives and Consumer Co-operatives. The first to have two of these organisations was Reformation Church at Kimbia. In the presence of Mr. F. Dow, the Divisional Forest Officer and Mr. R. Dowden, Co-operative Officer for Berbice, The Kimbia Logging Co-operative Association Ltd., and the Reformation Consumer's Co-operative Association Ltd., were organised. Shortly afterwards similar organizations were started at Grace, DeVelde; Logging Associations at Mt. Carmel, Mt. Hermon and Wakamukru and a Consumer's at St. Paul. (The Chairman and Secretaries of these organizations are, Messrs. A. Boyle, F. Macedo, A. Lindie, W. Thom, I. Melville, L. Hartman, J. Alstine, L. Lindie, Lionel Lindie, A. Morris, V. Barker, L. Sampson, P. Sauers, W. Blair and A. Isaacs.)

In the case of the Logging Co-operatives, Government will grant free leases, and applications for upwards of \$6,000 (for tractor and other equipment by each Society) have been placed with the Credit Corporation. It is hoped that arrangements will soon be complete and this great venture in co-operative action will be put into effect. With a spirit of mutual trust and confidence these projects are bound to succeed. It is a known fact that the "one-man" timber effort is both burdensome and unprofitable. Working together, with mechanical help seems to be the only answer to the universal yearning for a decent living.

The Consumer's Co-operatives at Kimbia and Maria Henrietta are already realities and great blessings have come to the people in these communities. These co-operatives take the form of grocery shops owned and operated by the shareholders. Members buy shares from \$1.00 to \$10.00 and with their total subscribed sums purchase goods at wholesale. They pay a part-time shop-keeper who takes care of daily sales and exchanges farm produce, eggs, chickens, etc. for shop-goods. These co-operatives have, so far, made two outstanding contributions. They are enabling the people to buy at much cheaper prices than hitherto and provide an outlet for small quantities of farm produce which formerly perished for want of a local market. We fervently pray that these co-operatives will weather the storms of distrust and fear, and emerge as bulwarks in the lives of our people. The Catechists of the Parish are standing by these organizations and giving generously of their time to their guidance and welfare.

MT. OLIVET, KAWKWANI.—Catechist Roup recently presented four candidates for confirmation and is at work with another. His Easter Concert, directed by the organist Mr. Abrams brought an offering of \$80.00 and this amount has been put in a reserve fund for a new Esty Symphonic Organ, which has just been placed on order. This fine electrically powered instrument will cost about \$1,000.00 of which the Reynolds Metals Company through the manager, Mr. A. N. Hurley, has donated half the cost. We are very grateful to the Company for this generous gift, and also for the gift of a 7-tube K.B. Radio for the School. With the commencement of the Summer Term the Company also agreed to provide the salary of an additional teacher — Mr. Thomas Fredericks.

The new term saw a new Headteacher in the person of Mr. Basil Budhu, formerly of Augsburg, Burma. He succeeds Mr. Harlow Bowen who resigned to pursue studies at Lenoir Rhyne College, U.S.A.

Through the loving services of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Phillips a thanksgiving offering of \$53.00 was presented on Sunday, June 27, during the morning service in the little chapel at Old Plant Site.

MT. CARMEL, ITUNI.—Several men are now engaged in felling logs for the rebuilding of the school. To supplement their

efforts the Education Department has granted the sum of \$750.00.

A gift of \$100.00 is presently being used for building a cement wall to the front porch of the Church building. This portion of the building, formerly of wood and exposed to the weather, is frequently in a state of disrepair. The work is being done by Mr. Lawrence Lindie.

At the same time, and through the efforts of the people, a memorial is being constructed to the late Catechist Benjamin Blair who on August 5, 1905 succumbed, a martyr to the poisonous arrow of his assailant.

A Sewing Class, organized by Mrs. Blair has drawn many young girls and women to the Sunday School. The Class is only open to members of the Sunday School of which Mrs. Blair is president. Recently she presided over the blessing of a gramophone and records which were received from Gospels Recording Inc.

We sympathise with Mrs. Ida Meyers on the death of her son, Edmond, from snake-bite.

St. PAUL, MARIA HENRIETTA—A grant of \$750.00 has been received from the Education Department for the rebuilding of the School and the men are helping in this effort by contributing the frame of the building.

During the past week the ladies have turned their attention to the production of (crab-oil). This is a tedious and long-drawn out task, but it helps to improve economic conditions.

Miss Daphne Melville recently played the organ for a sacred concert and received fitting tribute from the congregation. This effort was sponsored by the Women's League, (Mrs. P. Hartman, President) and an offering of \$70.00 was received.

Mt. HERMON St. LUST—Catechist C. Fredericks, on July 4, presented a class of eleven fine young men and women for confirmation. He is to be commended on this splendid effort and we shall pray his labours will bear fruit in the loyalty and devotion of the candidates.

Under the direction of Mr. W. Thom. and Mr. E. Shortt, organist, a concert of high quality was given on Sunday, July 25. Everyone appreciated the items and was full of praise for the choir.

ATONEMENT, EBINI—The School here is doing well, but suffers from too fre-

quent change of assistant teachers. For the year there have been three—Miss S. Stuffle, Miss E. Smith, and Miss E. Williams. Miss Williams will be succeeded in September by her sister, Miss Jean Williams, who recently wrote the General Certificate of Education.

Work has begun on the Catechist House and we hope that it will be completed by September. Mr. Clive Morris is in charge. We are grateful to everyone for the contribution of timber towards this project and to those who brought sand and bricks.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Magine Smith, and under the baton of Mr. Lyte, Atonement recently gave its first concert. The building was filled to capacity and we were certainly surprised that this small congregation should have so many talented singers.

REFORMATION, KIMBIA.—Within the four years of its existence as a congregation, Reformation Church has witnessed many happy events. None, however, brought greater joy than the dedication of the new Church building on Sunday, July 25.

The occasion was a big one in many respects. Two hours before the service began the councilmen saw that there would not be room enough! Benches were squeezed into the church and vestry and arranged outside the building. There were representatives from all along the river from New Amsterdam to Kwakwani. Guests included Misses E. Wagner and M. Fague and Mr. Daniel Sam.

The procession moved from the school building where worship services were held for the past four years. It was led by the vice-president of the Church Council, Mr. Hilton Christopher who carried the brass altar-cross; other councilmen followed each bearing a piece of chancel furnishing. Dr. Parker came next with the Catechist and the congregation.

The impressive service commenced at the door. The builder, Mr. Clive Morris, handed over the keys and as the doors were flung open, the congregation beheld the beautiful interior of the Church. The following account is quoted from the Programme of Dedication. "When Reformation Congregation gathered, some time ago, to talk about plans for the church building, one of the councilmen said 'we must build a church to our hearts desire'. This was the feeling that pervaded every heart as the project began and now that it is finished we believe that

it turned out not to be, indeed, "our hearts desire."

The structure is 52 ft. long and 20 ft. wide. The tower is 8 ft. square and 40 ft. to the top of the cross. The vestry is 15 ft. by 9 ft. The main frame rests on a reinforced concrete wall two feet high and eight inches thick. The floors of the nave and vestry are concrete with the centre strip of the latter done in Red Tintament. The frame, including rafters, is of bullet wood, and the sills, are of Kakerali. The roof is sealed with simarupa and herati and covered with corrugated aluminum. The rafters and ceiling are stained in mahogany. There are twenty Gothic windows of white oriental and tinted muranese glass. The walls are boarded with greenheart.

The front door carried the famous colour arrangement of Dr. Martin Luther and a design of one large cross in the centre with a smaller cross on each side. The black cross represents the sin of mankind. The red cross in the centre represents the sacrifice of Christ by which we can be cleansed from sin and inherit a heavenly life—represented in the blue cross on the right. The white background represents purity of the Christian life which is the road to heaven and the gold facings around the door signifies eternal life.

Over this door are the words from St. John's Gospel — "I am the door of the sheep" and above this is a picture of "The Good Shepherd." From the tower floor to the main building there is an open arch on which are the words from the book of Revelation. "Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it". A high arch divides the nave from the chancel and a Sanctuary Lamp hangs from the centre. Over it are the words "I am the Light of the World." In the centre of the altar the words "I am the Bread of Life" are carved upon an open book and across the Canopy the sentence "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Two Memorial Windows are beyond the pulpit and lectern respectively, in memory of the late Mrs. Jean DaSilva (nee Boyle), a foundation member, and the first of the congregation to depart this life.

Yes, we believe that this beautiful Church, a House of God, represents our hearts' desire. Let us be determined that it shall so remain.

We are very grateful to Dr. Parker who performed the act of dedication and preached the sermon, and to Miss Elaine Wagner for playing the organ. Upon this historic day three babies were baptized, Una Augusta Swarving, Patrick Owen Bender, and Joan Judith Lindie.

During a sacred concert which followed, representatives from various congregations brought greetings. They were Mr. William Reece, Catechist N. Roup, Miss M. Walker, Mr. Azard, Mr. I. Pattoir. The choirs of Grace, Atonement, Mt. Hermon, St. Paul and Reformation Churches rendered anthems, solos and duets. It was a real treat to listen to these choirs and we thank them most sincerely for co-operating in this joint effort.

During this programme, silence was observed in memory of the late Pastor W. J. E. Scott and Mrs. Mary Burkhart who gave \$1,000.00 towards the building fund. Catechist George Clarke was presented with a set of vestments in appreciation of his splendid services during the construction of the building.

At 7.00 p.m. Catechist Clarke was liturgist at Vespers and Catechist Munro preached an appropriate sermon. Thus ended a glorious day and one that would not be easily forgotten.

In reflecting on the struggles in the erection of this building there are certain things which stand out and make us doubly grateful and appreciative. First comes the Board of Foreign Missions of our Church from which we received the sum of \$3,000.00. Then, that fine Christian lady, Mrs. Mary Burkhart who gave \$1,000.00 U.S. to make our tower possible, and last but not least, the faithful and devoted services of the Catechist, councilmen and every member of the congregation. With hearts and hands they laboured together and erected a building worthy as a temple of the Lord Most High.

On Friday, July 2, a Family Banquet was held as a thanksgiving for the new church. The children followed by their parents dined on peppercot pork and rice. After the dinner there were speeches and toasts. Mr. Christopher toasted the carpenters; Mr. Boyle, toasted the joiners, and Mr. Macedo toasted the mason. Gifts from the congregation were presented to the work-men in appreciation of their services and suitable replies were given. Cakes, ice-cream, sweets and nuts were served. Light music was provided.

GRACE, DeVELDE. A fine and sturdy stelling is now under construction by the men of the congregation for the safe mooring of the Swan. A portion under the school has also been enclosed in preparation of the opening of a Co-operative Shop of which Mr. Alphonso Lindie is Chairman.

Catechist Munro and his choir were stranded on the river for several hours on the morning of July 11, when they were on their way to the dedication service at Kimbia. Their outboard motor broke down and took many hours before it could be repaired.

After an absence of many months due to a broken hip-bone, Grandfather Leps is back home with Granny Leps. We wish for them much happiness amongst their loved ones.

BEL AIR PARISH

PASTOR E. GENE VOSSELER.

REDEEMER, CAMPBELLVILLE. Members of the Church were shocked at the sudden death of Mrs. C. R. Persaud, the wife of one of our Councilmen. Mrs. Persaud is survived by her husband and seven children.

Luther League. A silver cup has been purchased to be awarded to the winner of the house competition.

St. MARY'S, BEL AIR. On August Monday, Bel Air Luther Leaguers entertained the Souvenir Luther Leaguers at the School. Although rain hampered the outdoor activities, indoor competitions in various games were held. On August 15, the congregation welcomed into the church eighteen (18) new members. Dr. Earl Erb preached, and Holy Communion was administered.

Self-support has been received in full for 1954.

St. ANDREW, LE RESSOUVENIR. Members are elated over the new look that has been given to the church. The church was painted inside and out, and members hoped to have the work paid for by the end of the year. Christian sound movies have recently been shown in the district, and the church will begin an all out programme of evan-

gelism during September, October and November.

Self-support has been received in full for 1954.

TIME FOR PRAYER

Man prays
When self fails
To prove its worth
Gone is bold confidence in the strength of arms:
Weakness breeds fear
So man prays
"Oh God,
Save!"

Man prays most
When self yearns
For greater things.
The worldly hopes around light Desire's fire
Passions, baubles
And man prays.
"Good God
Give!"

Man prays most real
When self sees
Itself as small
Pygmy beside earth and sky and sea,
This helpless atom turns to source of power
Devoid of pride . . . on penitent knee,
To be assured
Then man prays,
"Dear God,
Help!"

But, thou, Christian man
Prayest ever
For Grace to live.
To Father, tangible in vivid Nature,
To Son, believable, the redeeming Saviour,
To Spirit Holy, sanctifying healer,
For direction
O Christian-pray
"My God,
Thanks!"

By Louis W. Bone,
Headteacher, St. Mary's Lutheran
School.

THE LOWER BERBICE RIVER AND CANJE PARISH

The Rev. G. GORDON PARKER, Pastor

St. MARK, MA RETRAITE, BERBICE RIVER. To the onlooker it would appear as if something of great importance was taking place in the little village of Ma Retraite on the Berbice River. Yes, and rightly so it was, for on Sunday, July 25, 1954, another building, the "St. Mark" chapel was dedicated and set apart where-

in people may come to know the Christ and to praise and worship Him.

Truly this was a red letter day in the lives of the congregation at MaRetraite, when something they had hoped and prayed for had come to fruition. It is interesting to note that the first open air service was held at MaRetraite in the year 1928 during the pastorate of the late Rev. Robert H. Daube. The building which measures 42 feet by 28 feet is indeed a picturesque one and credit must be given to the contractors Messrs. John Grant the builder and David Goddett, the painter. The Pastor of the parish the Rev. G. Gordon Parker had charge of the service and the laying of the corner stone, whilst the act of dedication was performed by the President the Rev. A. R. Bowen, lessons for the occasion were read by Catechist Paul T. Jagdhar and Layreader J. E. Daphness. The Treasurer tendered the greetings of the Board of Foreign Missions, U.S.A., Mr. C. S. Chu, the greetings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, B.G., and Mr. J. Kesney, the greetings of the sister congregations.

"I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122.

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Revelation. 3:8.

St. CLEMENT GERMANIA. The congregation of St. Clement, Germania, was saddened by the loss of Mr. Daniel Elias on April 6, 1954. He has been an active member of this congregation and held the position of Secretary until the time of his death.

The burial service was held on April 7, with the Lay-Readers, Deacons and Elders of St. Catherine, Fearn; St. Mark, MaRetraite; St. Clement Scots Church, Mara and St. Clement Lutheran Church, Germania in attendance. Lay-Reader G. A. David of St. Clement was in charge of the service. Appropriate funeral addresses were delivered by Mr. G. A. David, Lay-Readers Alfred Kesney and N. T. David of St. Catherine, Fearn. Lay-Readers Ebenezer Daphness and J. E. Daphness of St. Mark, MaRetraite, and Elder C. Henry of St. Clement Scots Church, Mara. Burial took place in the Germania Cemetery and was in charge of Lay-Reader G. A. David.

Mr. Elias is survived by his wife Mrs. Jane Elias and seven children, Eric, George,

Milton, Rena, Clifton, Malvena and Lola as well as several sisters, two of whom are living at Germania, Mrs. Albertha and Mrs. Malvena Richards.

PASTOR SCOTT'S INTERMENT

Pastor Scott's body was laid to rest in one of the beautiful cemeteries in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Tuesday, June 29, 1954. The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Bishop, president of the Northwest Synod, had charge of the memorial services which were held in Reformation Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was assisted by the Rev. I. R. Kraemer, pastor of "Resurrection" Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, who preached a most helpful and understanding sermon.

It was also the privilege of Rev. Dr. Herman L. Gilbert, Secretary for the British Guiana field to be present and to express the Board's consolation and appreciation.

FOR SOUTHERN CROSS

The Archivist would like to complete his files of The Southern Cross. The following issues are missing:

1942 March-April

1942 Sept.-Oct.

1944 July-August

1944 Sept.-Oct.

1944 Nov.-Dec.

1951 March-April

Please look through your old copies and if you have any of these issues send them to:

The Archivist, Lutheran Office,
New Amsterdam.

WORKERS' CONFERENCE

The tenth Lutheran Workers' Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of British Guiana was held at Ebenezer Church, New Amsterdam on August 4-5. The conference was preceded by a one-day convention of the church to consider proposed revisions of the constitutions' by-laws.

The conference programme was immeasurably strengthened by the kind assistance of Dr. Erb and Dr. Gilbert. In addition to preaching at two of the services,

they gave stimulating lectures on Stewardship and Evangelism. Pastors Wallace Wolff and P. G. Hansen also conducted workshops on stewardship.

Catechist Claude Fredericks was re-elected as president of the conference; Catechist Arnold Persaud was elected as vice-president; and Catechist R. D. K. Singh was elected as secretary. President of the church, Pastor A. R. Bowen, conducted the installation service. Catechists played a prominent part in making this year's conference one of the best ever.

The following workers took part in the services at conference: Mr. Wilford Morris, Mr. Nathan Roup, Catechists C. Fredericks, R. D. K. Singh, R. L. Singh, S. Pillay, Roopnarine Singh, Samuel Seeram, D. J. Ramdeholl and Rev. H. C. Magalee.

Other special features were the Luther League Hour conducted by President Stephen Muttoo and Vice-President Victor Munro; a Bible Study by Miss Marianne Fague; Sunday School Hour by Miss E. Wagner and Mrs. H. C. Magalee; and a lecture on "Word Pictures From Paul," by Pastor E. Gene Vosseler.

The Conference was a real success and the long range benefits will become increasingly evident as the inspired workers return to their respective congregations.

PASTOR P. A. MAGALEE RESIGNS

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of British Guiana in Convention assembled, accepted the resignation of Patrick A. Magalee as a Pastor of the Church effective July 24, 1954.

WHAT IS A LUTHERAN ?

How did Lutheranism originate?

On October 31, 1517, there was only one Protestant — Martin Luther. A few years later, there were millions. The violent explosion known as the Reformation split the church of the 16th century into a number of segments, of which the Lutheran Church is one.

Luther had been a Roman Catholic priest who loved the church and had no intention of separating from it. But he ventured to protest in 1517 against the church's sales of certificates, called indulgences, which were said to reduce the time a soul must stay in purgatory. Luther had learned from Scripture that full forgiveness of sin is promised through faith in the merciful God revealed in Christ. This central idea led Luther to criticize many Roman Catholic teachings and practices. Soon the break was beyond repair.

What are the basic tenets of the Lutheran creed?

Lutherans don't claim any doctrines different from the common Christian faith described in the New Testament and first summarized in the Apostles' Creed. We are created by God, but we employ the freedom given us by God to disobey our Creator. The result is continual tragedy in human life. But God does not abandon us in our tragedy. He shares it with us.

In Christ, He reveals Himself as the Saviour God, suffering punishment and death so we may share with Him in the resurrection from death. Through faith in Christ, a new life begins in us. It is nourished by God's gifts through His Word and sacraments. The Word is recorded in the Bible, but the Word itself is a living, active thing through which the Holy Spirit stirs us to growth in understanding and obedience to God's will.

ELSON RUFF

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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